(c) and (d). RBI has reported that further action in the matter will be taken after the Chartered Accountants firm's report is available.

Poverty Alleviation Scheme

5746. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a move to restructure the existing poverty alleviation schemes for their effective implementation;

(b) if so, whether the Government have revived the credit linked self-employment scheme;

(c) whether there are a large number of schemes whose implementation has resulted in loss;

(d) whether the Government are considering to revive all the schemes to make them profitable; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). In a recent meeting with the representatives of some Ministries/Departments of Central Government, State Governments, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and banks to review credit linked programmes, it was recognised that considering the large number of credit linked poverty alleviation and self-employment schemes sponsored by various Ministries of Government of India as also State Governments, there was a need for rationalisation of these schemes into simple categories with well understood procedures. The meeting also took into account the fact that these schemes were targetted towards different sections of society with their own characteristics. It was, therefore, recommended that RBI will constitute a Group to study and make detailed recommendations on the integration and rationalisation of schemes. Accordingly, a Group has been formed with representatives of some State Governments, some public sector banks and a few Ministries of Central Government. Pending the submission of the report and its acceptance, it is not possible to spell out the details of restructuring of the existing poverty alleviation and self employment generation schemes.

Sick Industrial Companies Act

5747. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to have some changes in the Sick Industrial Companies Act, 1985; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such changes are likely to be incorporated?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Pursuant to the announcement made in Finance Minister's speech on the Budget for 1996-97, Government have initiated a total review of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA) and the working of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) with the intention to bring a new bill in Parliament.

Supply of Coal

5748. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any policy for distribution of coal to small industries and general consumers with special reference to Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the non-availability of coal in Bihar; and

(d) if so, the measures taken by the Government to make coal available in deficient areas of Bihar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). A well defined policy is being followed for supply of coal to industrial and other non-core sector consumers including those in Bihar. Coal supplies to the consumers in the non-core sector are made as per the linkages given by the coal companies and/or sponsorship received from the respective sponsoring authorities.

(c) There has been significant growth in despatches of coal to the consumers in Bihar during the year 1995-96. The total despatches of coal to all consumers in Bihar have been of the order of 12.993 m.ts. as against 11.874 m.ts. during the year 1994-95.

(d) Coal companies are endeavouring to meet the requirements of coal of all consumers in the country including that of consumers in Bihar by increasing production of coal. In addition coal from a number of collieries is being offered under the Liberalised Scales Scheme under which scheme coal is supplied without the requirement of linkages/ sponsorships.

Silk Export

5749. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether silk export have declined both in terms of value and quantity during 1995-96 as compared to previous year ;

(b) if so, the extent of decline during the above period;

(c) the names of the countries which have reduced import of silk from India; and

(d) the steps being taken to boost export of silk ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Export of silk goods during 1995-96 were 49.2 million metres valued at Rs. 845.16 crores as against exports of 61 million metres valued at Rs. 927 crores during 1994-95.